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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: STEFAN BONEBERG ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/741,909

Group Art Unit: 1724

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Examiner: ROBERT POPOVICS

Title: TANK FOR A CARBON- AND HYDROGEN- CONTAINING FLUID

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2002 (Paper No. 14), kindly amend this application as follows.

Please cancel claims 1-26.

Please add the following new claims.

--27. A tank for receiving a carbon- and hydrogen-containing fluid for supplying a fuel cell system with an operating medium, comprising:

an inlet and an outlet for the fluid; and

a straining means for cleaning the fluid, the straining means comprising a

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28. The tank of claim 27 wherein the straining means further comprises a filter for paraffinic hydrocarbons.

29. The tank of claim 27 wherein the straining means further comprises a filter for higher alcohols, ketones, esters and dimethyl ether.

30. The tank of claim 27 wherein the straining means further comprises a filter for an additive, the additive selected from the group consisting of flame colorants, coloring agents and odor-imparting agents.

31. The tank of claim 27 wherein the straining means comprises at least one adsorber material selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, copper oxide, zeolitic molecular sieves, surface-rich metal oxides and ion exchange resins.

32. A tank for receiving a methanol-containing fluid for supplying a fuel cell system with an operating medium, comprising:

an inlet and an outlet for the fluid; and

a straining means for cleaning the fluid, the straining means comprising a particulate filter, a filter for hydrocarbons, a filter for higher alcohols, ketones, esters and dimethyl ether, a filter for hydrogen halides and inorganic halogen compounds, and a filter for sulphur compounds.

33. The tank of claim 32 wherein the filter for hydrocarbons comprises activated carbon or a zeolitic molecular sieve.

34. The tank of claim 32 wherein the filter for higher alcohols, ketones, esters and dimethyl ether comprises activated carbon or a zeolitic molecular sieve.

35. The tank of claim 32 wherein the filter for hydrogen halides and inorganic halogen compounds is selected from the group consisting of copper oxide, other metal salts and ion exchange resins.

36. The tank of claim 32 wherein the straining means comprises one or more adsorber materials, each of the adsorber materials being independently selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, copper oxide, zeolitic molecular sieves, surface-rich metal oxides and ion exchange resins.

37. The tank of claim 36 wherein the metal oxides are selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , MgO and ZnO .--